

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 29, 2003, applicant hereby elects the 8th species as set forth in the listing of species in the Office Action. As noted in the Office Action, "Figure 16 shows species 8". It is also respectfully noted that there are additional drawings i.e., Figs. 17 through 21 which also relate to this eighth embodiment. Further, all of the embodiments are components of overall ankle brace assemblies as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

The following claims read on the elected species: Claims 1 – 4, 8 – 17, 22 – 26, 28, 29, 31 – 33, 36 – 41, 47, 50, 52, 55, 56, and new claims 59 and 60. In addition, the specification indicates that certain features are applicable to all embodiments, so claims 6, 7, 20, 21, 22, 30, 34, 35, 48, 49, 52 and 54 should also be included.

With regard to new claims 59 and 60 they are directed to structures such as the finger and geometric figure constructions providing varying support with increased force applied to the pad. This feature of varying support is now shown or suggested by the prior art.

In closing, an allowance of all claims is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16, or application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, which may be required now or during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 16-2230. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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